

Name: Eva

Hometown: Kristiansand, Norway

My School:

Here in Townsville I am a student at wonderful Kirwan State High School. It is one of the largest high schools in Queensland with around 2,000 students. The school is a little bigger than my school back in Norway. Back home, high school goes from Year 11 to Year 13, but here the students attending high school is from Year 8 until Year 12, so it is a bit different.

It was very nice for me to find that most of the students here are very open and friendly. It is not unusual for them to come up to us international students just to chat or ask questions even though they don't know us. This has made it a lot easier for me to feel welcomed at school. The schooldays starts at 09:00 am and ends at 03:00 pm with two lunchbreaks.

The classes here are pretty good, and there are a lot of different subjects to choose from. Also, the administration has been great to us. They have done everything they can to help the International Students adapt to the new culture and school. They have even tried to make sure that we all get to experience as much of Australia as we can.

The school has provided us with a welcome dinner and barbeque. Also, they organized a trip for us to beautiful Whitsunday Islands. This was honestly the best trip I have ever been on. We got to go snorkelling and boating, and we went to the whitest beach in the world: Whitehaven Beach. It was breathtaking.

My Friends:

The thought of going to a new country all alone can be really frightening to anyone. Suddenly you don't have the safety of your friends and family around you anymore. And I have to admit that I was terrified when thinking of it before I came here. But I can honestly say that it has been a great experience. I have made friends that will last me a lifetime.

I have grown to love my host family, I know that I will never lose contact with them. I can see myself coming back to Australia in the future to visit them, and they have been talking about coming to Norway for Christmas.

My Experiences:

I have had heaps of amazing experiences here in Australia! One page can not hold them all, but I'll try. During the September holidays I went to Cairns with my host family. It was so great! We went snorkelling and scuba diving on the Great Barrier Reef, and of course we went shopping. Also, my

host family took me to Mackay, which was great! I even got to visit a close friend from back home who is also a part of this international program. He goes to a high school in Mackay and loves it. I have been on several camps with school, and all of them have been so much fun!

Also I have done jet-skiing on Magnetic Island, visited the Reef HQ aquarium and much, much more. Right now I and some friends are planning a 3 days scuba diving trip where you get to dive down to a ship wreck and go night diving, and I and my host sister are going sky diving next weekend.

My calendar for the summer holidays completely packed, the experiences just keep on coming. Personally I think that just being here in Australia is a fantastic experience in it self. Everything is different, but in a good way. I love being able to go the beach with friends whenever I want, relaxing in the sun and go snorkelling. I just love the beach culture!